Transcript

Letter from Sir T. S. Raffles to the Duchess of Somerset, Bencoolen, 20 February 1824

MSS EUR D742/24 ff. 111-111A

f.111

Bencoolen 20 Febr 1824

We have just suffered a sad Calamity—
but as we have been so long enured
to misfortune it perhaps falls more
lightly upon us than it otherwise
would have done— time does not
admit of my Writing a long letter &
therefore I take the liberty of enclosing
for your Grace’s private perusal, a
Copy of my Despatch on the subject,
written at the moment and in great
haste, but which will afford you
all particulars.

I have this day engaged another Ship
in which We hope to have better
fortune, but she will not be able
to sail till the end of next Month—
We however hope to be in England
still— by the end of July.

It was not enough that we
should have the danger of Storms
Rocks

Her Grace

The Duchess of Somerset

f.111a

Rocks and Seas to contend with— but
another Element must rise against
us— Earth Air Fire & Water all
Combined to oppose our progress— but
I will not despair.

I have the honor to remain
Most sincerely

T. S. Raffles

Pray excuse the brevity of this— In truth
it is with the utmost difficulty I hold
the Pen.